<center>**Remarks**</center>

1.   **Summary of the Office Action**

In the office action mailed on March 16, 2009, the Examiner rejected most of the pending claims as being allegedly obvious over U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0033581 ("Kawarai") in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2002/01388854 ("Phillips") and in further view of U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0138854 ("Desai"). The Examiner also indicated that some claims contained allowable subject matter but objected to those claims as being dependent from rejected independent claims.

2.   **Status of and Amendment to the Claims**

Pending are newly added claims 30 to 49, of which claims 30, 39, and 47 are independent. Claims 1 to 29 have been canceled. All of the independent claims recite a lower medium access control entity receiving one portion of a frame, responsive to the transmission, or the initiation of the transmission, of another portion of a frame. Further, all of the independent claims recite the storage of different portions of the same frame in same buffer. The present invention has the advantage of reducing the amount of memory necessary to facilitate data transmission from an upper medium access control entity into a shared communications channel. Specification, ¶ 36.

3.   **Distinction Over Kawarai and Phillips**

Neither of the principle cited references teaches all of the elements of the newly presented claims. First of all, neither Phillips nor Kawarai teaches "a lower medium access control layer entity" receiving, or being configured to receive, data, as recited in the claims. Kawarai discloses a large capacity packet switch "for carrying out routing of a variable-length packet," Kawarai, ¶¶ 1, 17, and Phillips describes a system for distributing data such as songs

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and movies to multiple users over dynamic data paths. Phillips, ¶ 11. Neither reference makes mention of any medium access control layer entity.

Additionally, neither of the references teaches the use of buffers as recited in the claims—in particular, the use of the same buffer for different portions of the same frame. For example, independent claim 30 recites "storing the first portion of the first frame in a first buffer" and "storing the second portion of the first frame in the first buffer." In Kawarai, a packet is reassembled at an output buffer section from whichever queues hold pieces of the packet. Kawarai, ¶ 115. In Phillips, buffering occurs as needed to compensate for the bursty nature of data transmission from the hard disk, the source of the data. *See* Phillips, ¶ 83.

Without conceding any of the Examiner's arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the newly presented pending claims are allowable. Thus, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all of the newly presented claims.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this case with the undersigned, the Examiner is welcome to call the undersigned at (312) 913-3359.

Respectfully submitted,

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